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# United States Patent [19]

Friend et al.

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[54] **TASTE-MASKED MICROCAPSULE COMPOSITIONS AND METHODS OF MANUFACTURE**

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## Related U.S. Application Data

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[58] **Field of Search** ..... 424/441, 464, 424/466, 490, 465, 494, 495, 497

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## [57] ABSTRACT

A taste-masked microcapsule composition for administration of a drug is provided. The composition comprises microcapsules of drug and a substantially water-insoluble polymeric material, typically a cellulosic polymer. The microcapsule composition may be incorporated into any number of pharmaceutical formulations, including chewable tablets, effervescent tablets, powders, liquid dispersions, and the like. A method for masking the taste of drugs is also provided, involving a phase separation coacervation technique in which drug is coated with relatively high levels of a polymeric material. These high coating levels give rise to effective taste masking, while nevertheless allowing targeted release of drug, so that the drug is released shortly after passage through the mouth.

**47 Claims, 4 Drawing Sheets**

